

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the official action dated October 24, 2008. Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-14 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks (5659350) in view of Nemirofsky (5412416).

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks and Nemirofsky as applied to claims 3 and 9, and further in view of Arai (6751401).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14) are patentable over Hendricks, Nemirofsky, and Arai (collectively "the cited references").

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a transmission/reception device and method. Each of the claims recites that a redistribution digital signal is transmitted/received. Each of the claims further recites that the redistribution digital signal is formed on the basis of a digital signal received from a distribution device, and that "the received digital signal is made up of packets, the packets include a predefined area in which data can be written, and the formation of the redistribution [signal] includes writing information identifying [a] reception device in the predefined area and writing reception control information for the reception device in the predefined area." In addition, the claims recite that "the writing of information identifying the

reception device and the writing of reception control information for the reception device [is] performed on a frame-by-frame basis." (Emphasis supplied.) Supporting disclosure for the emphasized recitation can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0084]-[0087], [0100], [0121], and Fig. 10.

None of the cited references discloses the emphasized recitation. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-4 and 9-11 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/081,437

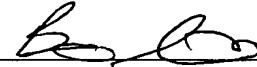
Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-241

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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